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HAVING been EXPLAINED.
JOINED with a large
complement of the latest EUROPEAN
and AMERICAN NOVELTIES,
we are prepared to execute
orders for FANCY WORK with
neatness and despatch, and at
very moderate rates.

CHINA MAIL OFFICE

The Chinese Mail

Established February, 1845.

THE CHINESE MAIL
毎日字
(Hongkong Wa Ta Yat Po.)
ISSUED DAILY.
CHUN UN MAN,
Manager and Publisher.
SUBSCRIPTION:
For Dollars a year, deliverable in Hong-
kong. Guilder \$1.00 per month,
including postage.

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

VOL. XLIX. No. 9523.

號九月八三九年百八千英

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1893.

日八月七日已亥

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. Alcock, 11 & 12, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.; GEORGE STREET & CO., 30, Cornhill; GORDON & GOULDING, Circus, E.C.; HATTON & CO., 57, Walbrook, E.C.; SALTER, DEACON & CO., 150 & 154, London Wall Street; W. M. WILLS, 151, Cannon Street, E.C.; ROBERT WATSON, 150, Fleet Street.
PARIS AND EUROPE.—AMÉDÉE PRINCE, 36, Rue Lafayette, Paris.
NEW YORK.—J. STEWART HAFER, THE CHINESE EVANGELISTIC OFFICE, 52, West 22d Street.
SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally.—BEAN & BLAKE, 86 & 87, New Street.
AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—C. GORDON & GOTCH, Melbourne and Sydney.
GEYLON.—W. M. SMITH & CO., THE CHINESE TRADING CO., Colombo.
SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.—KELLY & WALSH, Ltd., Singapore.
CHINA.—MAGGIO, A. A. DA CRUZ, Amy, N. MOALE & CO., LIMITED, Foochow; HEDGE & CO., Shanghai; LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & WALSH, Yokohama; LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & CO.

Banks.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.
AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, £1,500,000.
SUBSCRIBED, £1,125,000.

Bankers.

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LTD.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at the Rate of 2 % per Annum on the Daily Balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 12 Months, 5 %
For 6 Months, 4 1/2 %
For 3 Months, 3 1/2 %

JOHN THURBURN,
Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, February 4, 1893. 228

Intimations.

NOTICE TO MARINERS,
No. 34 (SPECIAL).

SHANGHAI DISTRICT.

WOOSUNG INNER BAR.

Vessels not to attempt to cross the Bar when drawing more water than is signalled.

A S the CHANNEL ACROSS the WOOSUNG INNER BAR has begun to silt up again, and the experience of last autumn proved that the grounding of a single vessel on the Bar may cause a sudden decrease of more than two feet in the depth in this channel, Captains and Pilots are hereby notified not to attempt to cross the Bar when the signals at the Woosung Station indicate less water than the vessel is drawing.

N.B.—As it is sometimes the case that a greater depth than is signalled can be obtained by following a track which cannot be indicated by the Bar Marks, Captains and Pilots wishing for further information than that shown by the signals should apply at the Harbour Master's Office at Shanghai or to the Berthing Officer at Woosung.

A. M. BISBEE,
Coast Inspector.

Imperial Maritime Customs,
Coast Inspector's Office,
Shanghai, 19th August, 1893. 1498

NOTICE TO MARINERS,
No. 272.

CHINA SEA.

SHANGHAI DISTRICT.

BARREN ISLANDS.

NOTICE is hereby given that Captain N. R. E. HARRIS of the Chinese S.S. Yung Ching reports having seen heavy BREAKERS bearing about S. by E. and distant about one mile from the Largest of the BARREN ISLANDS.

By Order of the Inspector General of Customs,

A. M. BISBEE,
Coast Inspector.

Imperial Maritime Customs,
Coast Inspector's Office,
Shanghai, 19th August, 1893. 1499

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY,
LIMITED.

THE Ordinary Half-Yearly MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Company's House, on FRIDAY, 15th September, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Statement of the Accounts of the Company to the 30th June, 1893, with the Report of the Directors, and to discuss any matters that may competently be brought before the Meeting.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 2nd to 15th Proximate, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,

R. LYALL,
Secretary.

Hongkong, August 25, 1893. 1484

"AQUARIUS."

THE TABLE WATER OF THE EAST.

For 1 dozen Quarts, \$1.75, less allowance on quantity returned to our Godowns, \$0.50. Net price, \$1.25.

Per 1 dozen Pints, \$1.00, less allowance on quantity returned to our Godowns, \$0.50. Net price, \$0.75.

GALDBECK, MACGREGOR & CO.,
Sole Agents.

13, QUEEN'S ROAD,

Hongkong, August 23, 1893. 1473

THE business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3% PER CENT. per annum. Depositors may transfer at their option balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK, to be placed on FIXED DEPOSIT at 5% PER CENT. per annum.

For the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, May 15, 1893. 1515

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, £1,000,000.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £1,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

Directors.

D. GILLIES, Esq. H. STOLTEFOORT, Esq.
CHAN KEE SHAN, Esq.
KWAN HOI CHUEN, Esq.

Chief Manager.

GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Branches.

LONDON, YOKOHAMA, SHANGHAI AND AMoy.

Banks.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND,
PARK'S BANKING CO. AND THE ALLIANCE
BANK (LTD.).

interest for 12 months Fixed 5 %.

do 6 do. do. 4 %.

do 3 do. do. 3 %.

Current Accounts 2 %.

Hongkong, May 24, 1893. 47

WASHING BOOKS.

(In English and Chinese.)

WASHERMAN'S BOOKS, for the use
of Ladies and Gentlemen, can now
be had at this Office—Price, \$1 each.

CHINA MAIL OFFICE.

SUMMER CHARGES.

June, July, August and September,
\$75 per Month.

FOR BOARD & LODGING in ROOMS
facing PEDDAR STREET or to the
Eastward.

FURNISHED ROOMS without BOARD,
\$45 per month.

Apply to MANAGER and/or SECRETARY,

HONGKONG HOTEL.

Hongkong, May 19, 1893. 920

Business Notices.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

NEW SEASON'S ISIGNY BUTTER, 1, 2 and 7 lb Tins.
WILTSHIRE BACON in Canves.

SICKLY BREAKFAST BACON in Tins.

Selected YORK HAMS.

MILD CANADIAN CHEESE.

CONFITURE DE ST. JAMES' FRENCH JAMS.

BARNES' ENGLISH JAMS.

DESSERT FRUITS in Syrup.

AMERICAN PRUNES, FRENCH PRUNES.

S MYRNA FIGS.

ANCHOVIES, Boiled BAKED BEANS, BOAT'S HEAD, BRAUN, BUCKWHEAT,

CHEESE, SALT CHAMPS, GELATINE, HADDOCKS, HERRINGS,

HONEY, JELLY, LOBSTER, MACKEREL, Maple SYRUP,

MUSHROOMS, OLIVES, Pig's FEET, PILCHARDS.

A USTRALIAN RABBITS.

SALMON, SARDINES, SAUSAGES, TART FRUITS, TONGUES, Turkey

RAGOUT, TRUFFLES, TRIPE.

LIME JUICE, CORDIAL

FRUIT SYRUP.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, August 15, 1893. 1426

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM

NAVIGATION COMPANY.

WILL despatch VESSELS to the Unmentioned PORTS on the DATES

named:—

PO. STEAMSHIP. DATE. REMARKS.

LONDON, &c. RIVER, Noon, 31st August.... See Special Advertisement.

JAPAN, Ancona, Daylight, 2nd Sept.... Freight or Passage.

SHANGHAI, FORMOSA, About 6th Sept.... Freight or Passage.

SHANGHAI, RIVER, About 11th Sept.... Freight or Passage.

LONDON, &c. RIVER, Daylight, 12th Sept.... Freight or Passage, calling at MARENGUES, if sufficient indenture offered.

MARSEILLE, &c. FORMOSA, About 24th Sept.... Freight or Passage.

For further Particulars, apply to

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, H. H. JOSEPH, Superintendent.

Hongkong, August 29, 1893. 1511

CHINESE SCHOOL BOOKS.

SAM-TS-Z-KING, TS'IN-TS-Z-MAN,

LITERALLY TRANSLATED AND EXPLAINED

BY DR. E. J. EITEL.

PRICE: 15 CENTS PER COPY.

CHINA MAIL OFFICE, HONGKONG, May 17, 1893. 905

NOTICES to Consignees.

STEAMSHIP MELBOURNE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

CONSIGNMENT of Cargo, from London ex Steamship Druitt and Alice, from Havre ex Steamship Aphrodite, and from Bourdeaux ex Steamship Druitt, in connection with the above Steamer, are hereby informed that their Goods—with the exception of Opium, Treasures and Valuables—are being landed and stored at their risk at the HONGKONG & KOWLOON WHARF & GODOWN COMPANY's, at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained immediately after arrival.

Optional cargo will be forwarded on, unless instruction is given from the Consignee before Noon To-Day (Wednesday), the 23rd Inst., instructing it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Underwriter.

Goods remaining unclaimed after Wednesday, the 30th instant, at Noon, will be subject to re-lading charges.

All Claims must be sent in to me on or before Wednesday, the 30th instant, or they will not be recognized.

All Damaged Packages will be examined on TUESDAY, the 29th instant, at 3 p.m.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

G. de CHAMPEAUX, Agent.

Hongkong, August 23, 1893. 1471

FROM HAMBURG, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE S.S. KRIEHN, Capt. Th. FOER, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for counter-signature by the Underwriter, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Optional cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary is given before Noon To-Day.

A cargo impeding her discharge will be landed into the Godowns of the HONGKONG & KOWLOON WHARF & GODOWN CO., LTD., SZE-SZE PORT, SAID.

BRINDISI, VENICE, FIUME AND TRIESTE.

THE CHINA MAIL.

No. 888. - August 26, 1893.

To-day's Advertisements.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GIRLS' SCHOOL,
16, Hollywood Road.
THE ABOVE SCHOOL will Re-open on
FRIDAY NEXT, 1st September, at
Hongkong, August 29, 1893. 1512

NORTHERN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP AND RAILROAD COMPANIES.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG, 1893.

(See back page.)

TACOMA, Thursday Sept. 28.

MOUNTAIN, Thursday Oct. 19.

VIDORIA, Thursday Nov. 3.

TACOMA, Tuesday Dec. 12.

MOUNTAIN, Tuesday Jan. 2/94.

THE Steamship TACOMA, Captain J. E. Hill, R.N.R., sailing at Noon, on THURSDAY the 28th September, will proceed to VICTORIA, B.C., and TACOMA via SHANGHAI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA.

Through Bills of Lading issued to Japan, Pacific Coast Points, and to Canadian and United States Points.

Complaints of Goods for United States Points should be in quadruplicate; steamship bills sent forward by the steamer to be issued to the Freight Agent Northern Pacific Railroad, Tacoma, Wash.

Parcels must be sent to our Office with address marked in full by 5 p.m., on the day previous to sailing.

For further information as to Passage or Freight, apply to

BODWELL, CARLILL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, August 29, 1893. 1514

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

Aerated Waters.

WATER.—The Water used is absolutely pure. Steam Plant of the latest and most powerful type. Supervision.—The whole process of manufacture is under the continuous supervision of a qualified English Chemist.

THE PRODUCT.—Will bear comparison with the Waters made by the most noted makers in England.

Dakin, Cruickshank & Company, Ltd.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

673

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

August 28.—

Jacinda, German steamer, 905, C. Christensen, Bangkok August 22, Rice.—**STENSEN & CO.**

August 29.—

Ching Fung, Chinese str., from Canton, *Yung Ching*, Chinese str., from Canton.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, Vancouver August 7, via Yokohama and Shanghai 26, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Chow Fa, British steamer, 1,035, F. W. Phillips, Bangkok August 23, Rice.—*Yuen Fat Hong*.

Karenne, British steamer, 1,915, G. W. F. Browne, Shanghai August 26, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Nameo, British steamer, 863, W. Thom, Foochow August 25, Amoy 26, and Swatow 28. General—**Douglas Scriven & Co.**

Azooch, British steamer, 1,055, T. Rowin, Samarang August 20, Sugar.—**MELCHERS & CO.**

DEPARTURES.

August 29.—

Mathilde, for Kobe.

Triumph, for Haikow.

Tai Lee, for Saigon.

Luzon, for Shanghai.

Victoria, for Amoy and Tacoma.

Nanhai, for Swatow.

Fokien, for Swatow.

Hongkong, for Haiphong.

CLEARED.

Levies for Amoy.

Fee for Haikow.

Customs for Saigon.

Henry Failing for New York.

PASSENGERS.

Arrived.

Per Dawa, from Bangkok, 8 Chinese.

Per Chao Fa, from Bangkok, 8 Chinese.

Per Ravena, from Shanghai, Meas.

Per Empress of India, from Vancouver, Mr. Hartill, Miss Reid, Mr. Fairlie, Commodore Boyce, Mr. and Mrs. Cooke, Mr. H. K. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Hippisley, Mr. J. M. de Cruz, Miss Eastman, and 13 Chinese.

Per Nameo, from Coast Ports, Miss Focken, Miss Kennedy, Feng, and 103 Chinese.

Departed.

Per Victoria, for Foochow, Mr. A. A. Hollo, Mr. J. J. for Kobe, Liang, F. L. Wood, Master, G. Sons, F. Fujimoto, and J. Shirafuchi; for Yokohama, Messrs E. S. Wheeler, and A. Coutts, Dr. S. T. and Mrs. Knaggs, Miss Knaggs, Miss Annie Knaggs, Miss Boy Knaggs, Miss Alice Knaggs, and infant, Mr. Howzer; for Victoria, B.C., Mr. W. Harrison and Mrs. King Sing for London, Mr. Thomas Skinner.

For Triumph, for Haikow, 60 Chinese.

For Tai Lee, for Saigon, 150 Chinese.

For Foochow, for Shanghai, 1 European and 25 Chinese.

For Nanhai, for Swatow, 200 Chinese.

For Hongkong, for Haiphong, 30 Chinese.

For Fokien, for Swatow, Misses F. J. Clifford, and Boggs.

To Depart.

Per Levert, for Amoy, 200 Chinese.

Per Levert, for Haikow, 80 Chinese.

Per Chau, for Saigon, 50 Chinese.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

The British steamer *Chesapeake* reports: Moderate to light variable winds, with heavy rain, sea calm.

The British steamer *Ravena* reports: Left Shanghai at noon, on August the 26th; and from time to arrival, experienced light variable with smooth sea, and steady barometer.

The British steamer *Narrows* reports:

Left Foochow 25th, moderate N.E. and Northeastly winds and fine weather to Amoy.

Left Amoy 26th, gentle N.W. to West wind and fine weather to Swatow. Left Swatow 28th, light E.N.E. winds and fine weather to port. August 27th, steamer lying in Swatow, Whampoa, Thalot, Chefoo, Tsinan and Tsinwei.

VISITORS AT HOTELS.

HONGKONG HOTEL.

Mr. W. G. Allen Mr. W. J. Hancock

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Miss Howard

Andrews Mr. J. Jacques

Mr. P. Cantier Mr. A. Messy

Mr. H. S. Cooke Mr. T. Mitchell

Mr. E. Corney Mr. J. Oliver

Mr. H. Croome Miss F. W. Phillips

Mr. J. H. Curdell Miss Read

Mr. E. H. Derrick Mr. F. E. Shean

Mr. F. Fairlie Mr. J. T. Tindall

Mr. H. Gibson Mr. E. Sutcliffe

Mr. & Mrs. E. Hippe Mr. A. Tindall

playe Mr. E. Tindall

MOUNT ABERDEEN HOTEL.

Mr. Anderson Mr. Morton Jones

Mr. John Andrew Mr. & Mrs. Carl Janzen

Miss Bartlett 220, nursing and children

Mr. S. Bonjamin

Mr. H. E. Boxhall Mr. C. F. E. Maricous

Mr. Hart Begg Rev. Mr. W. Kramer

Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Mr. Monto

of office work. Such a member would be of great service, and could render vast assistance. Would His Excellency not think it well to ask by wire for authority from the Secretary of State to put some lay member on the Commission, though I think it is unnecessary to do so?—I remain, yours very truly,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.

THE A.D.C. TO SIR T. H. WHITEHEAD.
Government House,
Hongkong, July 29th.

Dear Sir—I am directed by His Excellency to this date to say that His Excellency regrets that he cannot accept your suggestion for the appointment of a lay Member to the Retrenchment Committee:—The Chief Justice has already informed His Excellency that he must decline to accept a position which he would be bereft of all influence, and the only alternative seems to be the appointment of 4 members as suggested in my note of the 28th.

If you do not feel that you can serve on such a committee, the Governor is afraid that he can take no further action on the matter, having already done everything he could to get together a Committee on the lines suggested by the Secretary of State, and failed.—I remain, yours very truly,

(Signed) J. T. STERLING, A.D.C.

To the Honourable T. H. Whitehead,
M.L.C.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD TO THE A.D.C.
Hongkong, 2nd August, 1893.

Captain J. T. Sterling, A. D. C., Govern-

ment House.—Sir—I have carefully considered your note of the 26th ultimo in which you inform me, by direction of His Excellency, that he cannot accept my suggestion to appoint a lay member on the Retrenchment Committee, that the Chief Justice had already indicated a desire to decline an appointment where he would be "bereft of all influence," and that the only alternatives seem to be a Committee of 4 members, or the abandonment of the Enquiry altogether.

May I be permitted in the first place to point out that His Excellency appears to have lost sight of my respectful suggestion that he might kindly wire to the Secretary of State informing His Lordship of the position, and requesting authority to appoint one or two Commissioners other than members of the Council, if a third unofficial member is not willing to serve. Until this is done I think it can scarcely be said that everything has been done to comply with His Lordship's wishes.

In the second place—I have allowed to say that I do not understand the meaning of the expression used by the Chief Justice, as described in your note. With a Committee composed of Mr. May, Mr. Chater, another unofficial member of Council, or some lay member, and myself, the Chief Justice would have all the influence due to his position, to his known impartiality, fairness, independence, and strong common sense, and would probably in all matters in which there was a difference of opinion among the members carry the majority with him, but if there were a decided minority against the view taken by him, and he was unable to persuade that majority by argument, he would, I presume, as Chairman, give effect to the wishes of the majority, and record his own views if he thought it necessary. Is it not perhaps possible that the words used by His Honour the Chief Justice may have been misinterpreted?

I am afraid that a Committee composed of four, as indicated in your note of 28th ultimo, would not possess the purpose for which it was asked by the unofficial members of Council and by the public, and granted by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, viz., a searching investigation into the organization and management of the Government departments, and into the Colonial expenditure generally, with a view to ultimate retrenchment. In the face of the declared opposition of His Excellency the Governor, and of the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, to such a Committee and its investigation, the Committee should, I still think, consist mainly of persons unconnected with the Government; and what objection there can possibly be to a Committee so composed I am not able to conceive, as they can only report and recommend—nothing more.

If His Excellency cannot see his way to the appointment of such a Commission as was unanimously asked for by the unofficial members, I am very sorry that I feel prevented from taking part in the proceedings of a Committee so composed that while barring the way to a more effective enquiry in the future, it could not hope to accomplish much in the present.

It is my opinion that the Committee should be appointed, and that the best course would be to let it proceed with the spirit of inquiry, and record his own views if he thought it necessary. My reply, if it should become desirable, will be—

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.

THE A.D.C. TO SIR T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Craigieburn, August 5th, 1893.

Sir.—The Governor desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., and to reply to mine of the 29th ult.

in respect to the constitution of the Retrenchment Committee.

2.—Your letter contains several points on which you appear to His Excellency to be in error, but with a view to the avoidance of further delay in the settlement of the practical question whether or no the Retrenchment Committee appointed by him is to commence its enquiry, or to refrain from presenting to the government any discussion of them.

3.—H.E. directs me to inform you that he is unable to adopt your suggestion that he should telegraph to the Secretary of State for permission to add Mr. Edna's name to those of the existing members; it is not for a moment likely that the Secretary of State would act on a telegram of such a nature without the full explanation as to the difficulty had occurred in giving effect to his instructions; the Governor desires me therefore to say to you, as good as to state finally whether, or no, you will serve on a Committee consisting of the Chief Justice as Chairman, Hon. C. P. Chater, yourself, and Mr. May. Such a Committee would be within the letter and spirit of the Secretary of State's instructions.

In this connection he invites your attention to the following extract from a letter which he received yesterday from the Chief Justice, in which he again objects to serve on a Committee containing a majority of unofficial members of Council:—

At the same time I, through this latter, urge upon Mears Whitehead & Chater's reconsideration of their objections to a Committee of four, viz., two unofficial members and one official member and a Chairman. It seems to me that a Committee so constituted would give the unofficial members all the advantages which the origin of the Committee could fairly be held to entitle them to, and would be within the letter and spirit of the Secretary of State's instructions, while at the same

time it would sufficiently meet my personal objections. In such a Committee no recommendation could be carried in the teeth of a general opposition, and every recommendation which a majority could agree to would be free from the possible reproach of a mere party conclusion. It might of course happen that on some points there would be an equal division, but the only result would be that no recommendation could be formed.

As Mr. Whitehead is good enough to impute to me perfect impartiality, I fail to see why he should object to a Committee composed (excluding the Chairman) of two members on his side (for it is impossible to escape the conclusion that there are sides) and one on the other.

4.—In regard to your application for permission to publish the correspondence on the subject of the constitution of the Committee, H.E. hopes that you will be content to serve obtrusive any necessity for a general publication, but should you finally decline to serve, he will be obliged by your renewing your application, as in that event he would wish to add certain observations (which otherwise he would not consider necessary) to form part of the matter to be published.—I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. T. STERLING, A.D.C.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD TO THE A.D.C.
Hongkong, Aug. 8, 1893.

Captain J. T. Sterling, A. D. C., Govern-

ment House.—Sir—I have received your letter of the 2nd instant and have endeavoured to give it due consideration.

I am very sorry that you should have made such a trouble of again writing. I thought I had made a quite clear in my letter of the 2nd inst. that I could not consent to serve on the Commission as at present constituted, and intended to say in the second part of that note, that if His Excellency could not see his way to the appointment of such a Commission as was unanimously asked for by the Unofficial Members I was prevented from taking part in the project of a Committee so composed that while barring the way to a more effective enquiry in the future, it could not hope to accomplish much in the present. I will, with very great regret, that I have myself compelled to advise you to desist from this in these few words, and I can only apologise to His Excellency for the trouble I have given and that him for his considerable kindness in permitting me to reconsider the matter a second time, and for his courtesy in communicating Mr. Clarke's views on the subject.

There are two points in His Honor's letter with reference to which I cannot quite agree with him, and in which I am afraid I do not agree with His Excellency also. I do not think that the Committee as now constituted is within the spirit, although with the letter of the Secretary of State's instructions.

The unofficial members of Council in their petition asked for an enquiry by a body to be constituted of members of Council exclusively appointed by the Government, or at least a majority of such persons.

The Chief Justice in his dispatch of the 17th January last, para 17, emphasises this by quoting between brackets commas the words cited above. When the matter was referred to in a House of Commons by Mr. Beith, he advised for the appointment of an "independent" Commission. Neither in the House of Commons, nor in His Lordship's dispatch of the 21st April, does the Secretary of State indicate any reluctance to the appointment of such a Commission. Nothing could have been easier than for His Excellency to have said in express terms that he was prepared to grant an enquiry if it could not be granted in the form asked for, and to have directed in many words that there should not be an independent majority. The matter was expressly before him, and while limiting the number of officials, he did not exceed the Committee by one.

He has, however, stated in his dispatch of the 17th January last, para 17, that he had no objection to any number of unofficials.

A Committee of two official members, and three unofficial would have been as completely within the spirit of His Lordship's dispatch as they certainly would have been in my humble opinion within the spirit of his communications in reply to the petition addressed to him.

Neither can I agree with His Honor that the Chief Justice that the unofficial element would have all the advantages of the Committee could fairly be entitled to it, as at present composed.

The Committee is the outcome of a long continued struggle between

the unofficial members of the Legislative Council and of the Government of the Colony on the subject of retrenchment, and especially of a Committee of one to view to retrenchment. Until His Excellency arrived in the Colony there was no admission on the part of any member of the Government that retrenchment was either necessary or possible.

His Excellency, it is true, fully admits the need for retrenchment, and that there is room for it, and he advocates many valuable reforms, but His Excellency has always opposed a public and independent enquiry. On appeal to the Secretary of State the views of the unofficial members of Council have prevailed over the views of the officials, and if either side is entitled to have a majority on the Committee of enquiry and to make their views prevail, it is likely that such a majority will be necessary, and deserve to push it to the fullest extent, and that side that has always opposed public and independent enquiry as unnecessary and inappropriate.

I may further point out that in my humble opinion it can be no possible advantage to an enquiry of this nature that the Commission is so constituted that there is a probability of equal division of opinion on many points, and consequent inability to take action. The object of the Committee is to "make a comprehensive enquiry" according to the words of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, "affecting all departments in the service." The party favoring enquiry ought to have, if this is to be the prime object of the Committee, to be in direct and plain opposition to those who have always opposed it, and do it inopportune and unnecessary, or an equality of votes tending to neutralise and stop all effective action. It is very deep regret that I find myself compelled to agree with His Honor the Chief Justice that there are and will be difficulties in giving effect to his instructions: the Government desires me therefore to say to you, as good as to state finally whether, or no, you will serve on a Committee consisting of the Chief Justice as Chairman, Hon. C. P. Chater, yourself, and Mr. May. Such a Committee would be within the letter and spirit of the Secretary of State's instructions.

I am very sorry to have put His Excellency to so much trouble. I thank him very sincerely for his ready assent in nominating me on this Commission. I should have liked to do so, but I cannot consistently do so, as I still think an independent enquiry desirable and necessary. There can be no independent enquiry of the comprehensive nature desired by the public, and directed by the Secretary of State, unless at least a majority of the whole Committee are decided in favour of enquiry, and of enquiry in that particular form. I believe, with all respect to the opinion of His Excellency, and His Honour the Chief Justice, that the Secretary of State intended, on the basis of substitution of an Unofficial Member of Council in his place, Your request was based on the ground that "to be of any practical value the Committee must contain a majority of Unofficial Members." The Unofficials are at a loss to imagine by what process of reasoning you can have arrived at this astonishing conclusion. It is the more extraordinary because a subsequent letter of yours shows that you had grasped the fact that the Committee would have no power to

Lordship's despatch. I am speaking how solely for myself. If the other unofficial members of Council do not agree with me and are content to accept this as the enquiry they asked for, they are free to act on it, and my place easily filled by one or other of them.

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to the need for retrenchment, and as to the possibility of great economies being effected in nearly all branches of the public service. I have strongly urged upon the Government and the public the necessity for a comprehensive enquiry into the facts, that it might be selected and made clear in what departments and to what extent economies and retrenchments were possible. My expressed opinion as to the possibility of serious retrenchments I am fully confirmed by His Excellency the Governor, as the result of the enquiries he has been able to make. I am more than justified in my opinion that an enquiry by an independent Committee is an essential preliminary to any scheme of retrenchment, and that private enquiries conducted wholly within the bosom of the Government are inadequate, by the decision of the Secretary of State, to ascertain the grounds for a comprehensive enquiry, in spite of the strong protests of His Excellency the Governor that no such public enquiry was necessary or desirable, and that he was in possession of all needful information.

6.—His Excellency might well have been

if I had consented to act on a Committee which from its composition must utterly fail to push any effective enquiry in my direction about which there may be any serious differences of opinion between the representatives on it of the public and of the Government. It is, however, done so I should have exposed myself to a charge of inconsistency and folly, having accepted for an independent enquiry and accepted something which was equally divided in its numbers, lacked the power to push its investigations, and the independence that could give authority to its report and recommendations.

7.—Once more, in his anxiety to remove even the semblance of a justification for your reluctance to serve on the Committee, the Governor was disposed to give effect to your wishes. Needless to say, he did not consider them reasonable, but he thought that little could be done to satisfy them, as they did not directly contravene the terms of His Excellency's instruction. But here again he was met by a double difficulty. Mr. Beilby, who was invited to join the Committee, declined, and the Chief Justice finally consented to preside over a Committee constituted in the manner desired by you.

8.—On the 12th instant, after the proceedings of the Committee had been completed, I should have exposed myself to a charge of inconsistency and folly, having accepted for an independent enquiry and accepted something which was equally divided in its numbers, lacked the power to push its investigations, and the independence that could give authority to its report and recommendations.

9.—Once more, there might have been an

anomaly in appointing a Committee on which there was some time ago a

recommendation by the Honorable C. P. Chater, himself, and myself, and the Chief Justice as Chairman, and Mr. May, with His Honor the Chief Justice as Chairman; and you have again arrived at a

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THE CHINA MAIL.

No. 888.—AUGUST 29, 1893.

HANKOW.
(N.C. Daily News correspondent.)

Aug. 21.
I have just sent you a wire re the Sungpu refugees. The matter is as follows. On the 12th inst. the Hankow district magistrate sent a copy to the Governor, stating that it was necessary, in order to arrive at the truth about the massacre, to have the six employees of the Mission, who were taking refuge in the foreign concession, brought to Hwangchow for examination. The Governor in reply commanded the Magistrate for his carelessness, pointing out that many innocent natives had been executed and otherwise punished in connection with these anti-foreign cases, which mistake he must not make, the original despatch and reply were posted at the gate—door—and ordered the Magistrate to communicate with the Consul to have the men produced, handed over, and forwarded to Hwangchow.

The latter, of course, had to go before Consul-General Hobl, who no sooner received the note than, eager to serve his dear friend the Victor, he wired up ordering the Mission to give the men up. Knowing by and experience how ready, and with what energy, their Consul seems to be to assist on the wrong side, this move of his was fully anticipated, and the Swedish Mission had made up its mind to stand by the men who had stood by them. They therefore resolutely refused obeying orders; and their eternal shame it would have been if they had obeyed them. They paid out that while the Swedish-Norwegian treaty contains provisions for handing over to the native authorities any Swedes who may be in their charge, there are none for the giving up of innocent, defenseless men, who were not even accused of any crime. Although these men are nominally wanted as witnesses, the real design of the Chinese authorities in getting hold of them is to punish them for being associated with the missionaries and to show that foreigners are now perfectly powerless to protect natives who may offend by being in their service. They have already punished a great number of innocent people, some of whom are still in goal for other reasons, and at Hwangchow these men would be completely at their mercy. Now what is to be the next move? If the Mission won't give them up, one must come and take them by force. The Swedish Consul whose business that should be is in Shanghai, and all other Consul is likely to take the job off his hands, nor will the municipal police interfere. It remains therefore for the Taotai to come and seize them himself, and this we are assured he is fully prepared to do; and if he does there will be trouble. Treaties up here have been torn to tatters long ago. It now only remains for our Concessions and our homes to be entirely at the mercy of our bitter enemies.

What a blessing to his country is a Consul like Mr. Hobl! The Victor, finding that the Swedish missionaries obey their Consul and the despatch of a vessel to obey his orders may well find more of them to show once again the disapproval of such proceedings. And it is not only his own people that suffer; if we have a riot in the Concessions, the consequence of this there is nothing telling where it will end.

Still as the proverb says 'the better war is the sooner peace.' The present condition of affairs cannot go on. It is necessary to make a stand somewhere. Every time these evil-intentioned demands of the native authorities are yielded to only clears the way for some other demand more wicked than the one which preceded it. There is no likelihood of any foreign Power interfering till serious mischief has been done; but the sooner matters are brought to an issue the less serious is the mischief likely to be.

NANKING.
(N.C. Daily News Correspondent.)

Aug. 22.
The following rather curious placard has just appeared at Pan Kao 板橋 and other villages east and south of Nanking. It is evidently the production of a Buddhist, and, while it has but little to say of foreigners, it seems directed against the Christians. It is called 'A Tract to the Method of Saving Life without Limit,' and reads as follows:—

'The foreigners' churches and charity schools have become most prosperous. Our Chinese officials have not thought to the matter. But those from them there are those who can manage. What has the White Lily Church with its secret plotting of devils to do with the Christian Church? The crooked and the straight are easily distinguished; what is the use then of foolish talk? I, a humble disciple of Buddha, cannot but suggest a method of relief.'

'Children on the street and young men and women are often led off by enchanters 术人 and rendered speechless and confused. It must be because the enchanter before their very faces bewitches them. As before their very faces bewitches them, the uncharitable and (hang him) up high. Examine him carefully. He will not speak the truth, then take a woman's sauced garment, wrap it around his head and pour on water. He will immediately speak truly and clearly and you can thus secure evidence. At once cut the tendon of his legs to prevent any others thereafter being bewitched and led captive by him and reduced to imbecility. Pour cold water on the heads of those who have been affected and they will immediately recover their senses.'

'2.—When persons wandering about without occupation come to you do not suffer them to go. When suspicious strangers enter an opium room at night do not allow them to go. If these are those who will not give heed, send their names to the yamen. Travelling merchants should protect themselves most carefully when travelling in the dark or resting over night. Persons prowling about at night should be tied up until morning. Those prowling in the day-time should be thoroughly searched. No one should be allowed to sleep in the temples of the earth god. If there are those who disobey, tie them up and beat them without question.'

'3.—Any one seeing a whirling wind in the court or before a door or window should take a bamboo spear and throw water at it when it will immediately be broken up. As the glibbering is a house, injuring people with their monstrous appearance, press the water in which the women wash their feet and take a soiled garment and the water to drive them off. During the four seasons, should there be any cause of fear, the night watchman should not best his drum or rattle but go about quietly.'

Colonel Denby, U.S. Minister and Dean of the diplomatic corps at Peking, has acknowledged the receipt of the resolutions respecting the Sungpu outrage adopted by the foreign residents of Nanking.

The Ho-tieh of the Shang-hai who is to examine the students from Anhui preparatory to the great examination, arrived yesterday. He is a Shantung man, and Wu Lin, and was the Hon-in First Honour man of the first year of the reign of the emperor. The Ho-tieh will not reach here until the fifteenth of the Chinese month. He is a

man, the name of P'u Liang.

The Ho-tieh, whose sons were arrested for murder, as I reported a few days ago, attempted suicide last Sunday. A foreign physician was called in to save his life. Many express great sympathy with the old gentleman in this sad trial. His relatives, however, have been expelled from the clan. Their tablets will be allowed no place in the ancestral temple. There can be no heavier disgrace than this for a Chinaman.

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Examine him carefully. He will not speak

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